



# *Fork Lift Awareness*



## *Fork Lift Accidents*

- OSHA estimates that there are 680,400 accidents each year
- Approximately 90,000 employees suffer some type of injury



# *Fork Lift Accidents*

- losses affect employees
  - physical suffering
  - mental suffering





## *Benefits of Fork lifts*

- Assist in the movement of materials
- Reduce employee injuries



# *Fork Lift operating environments*

- Pedestrians
- Blind spots
- Indoors/Outdoors
- Narrow aisles
- Building columns
- Operate 24 hours per day
- Turning radius



## *Fork Lift and Pedestrians*

- Pedestrians contribute to accidents
- Pedestrians do not understand stopping distances
- Pedestrians tried to “beat” a lift truck



# *Methods used to reduce Fork Lift Accidents*

- Training of drivers
- Maintenance of equipment
- Areas of operation



# *Fork Lift Accidents*

- Losses affect employers
  - damage to equipment
  - loss of productivity







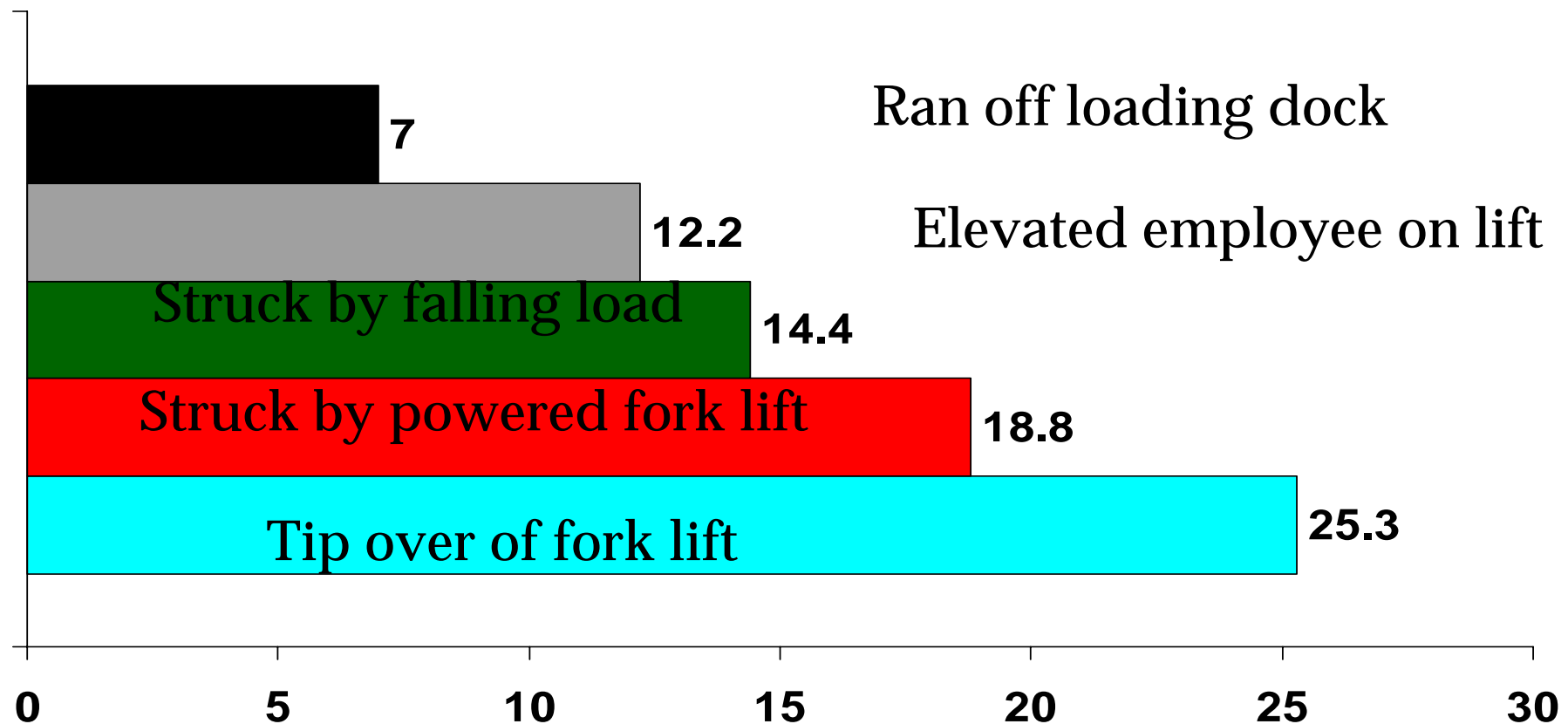
## *A breakdown of the 680,400 accidents:*

- 90,000 employees injured
- 100 deaths

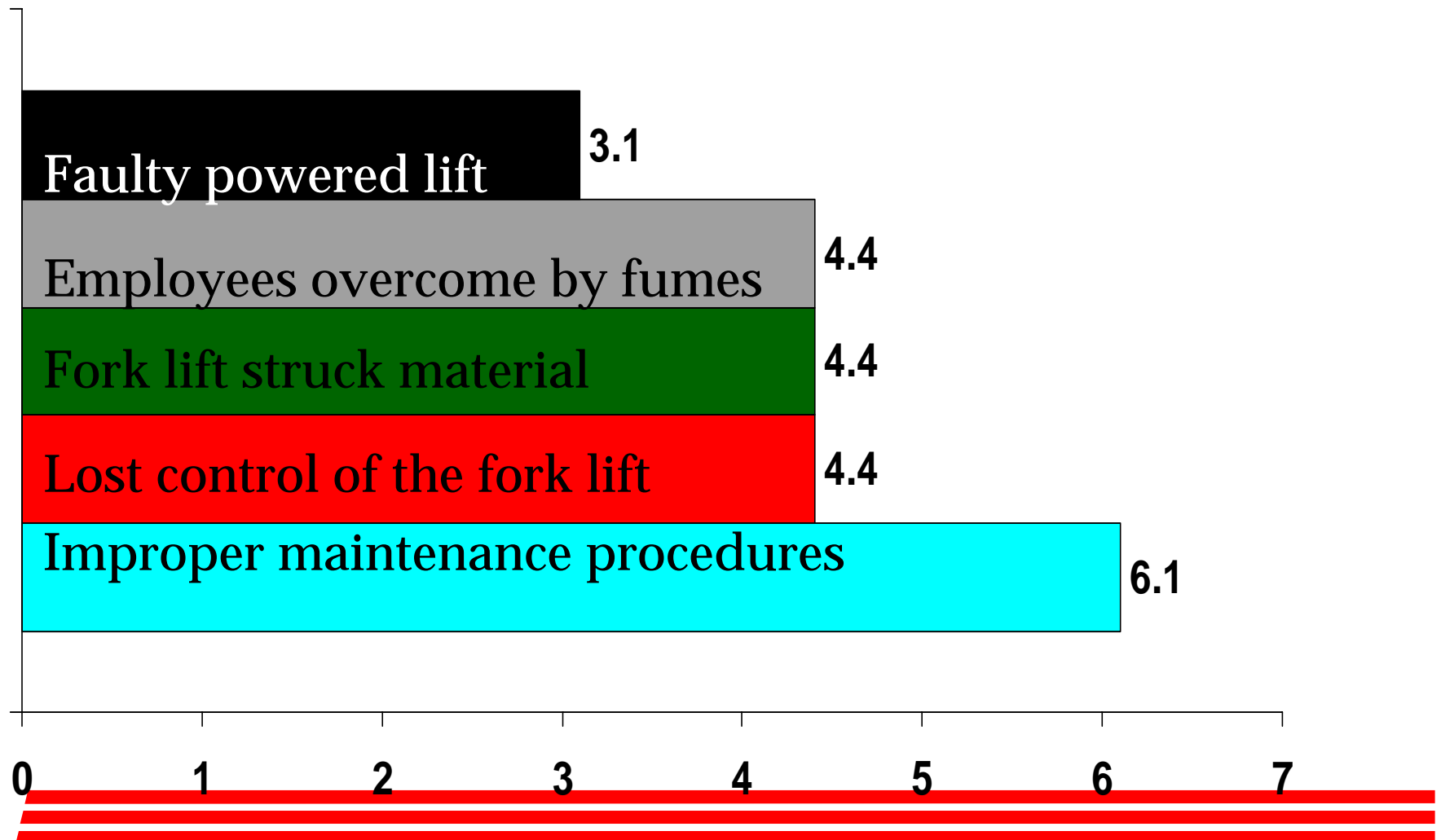
Source: Powered industrial truck accidents report through OSHA's  
“First report of serious accidents” 1985-1990



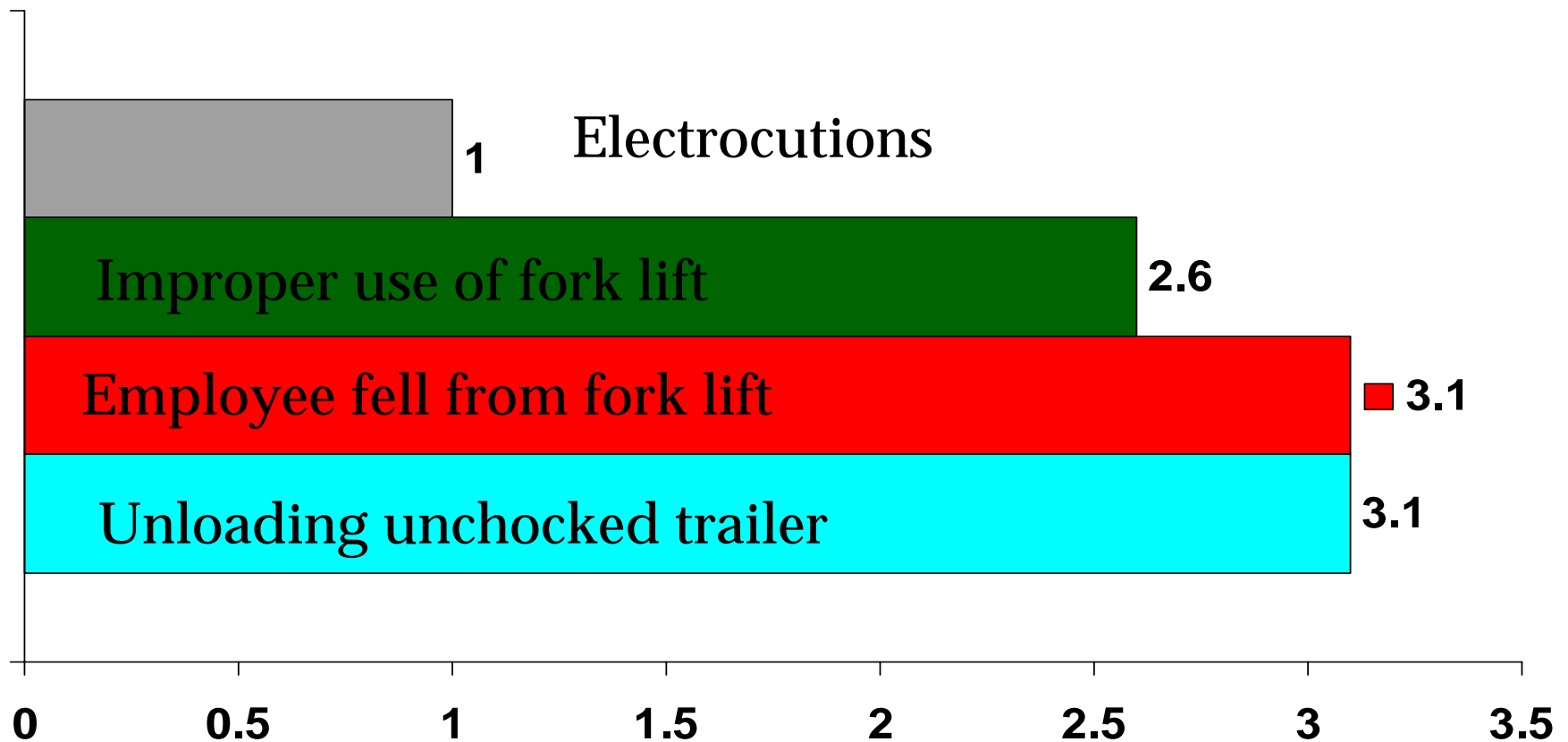
# *In percent what Causes Lift Truck Accidents?*



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# *Safety Tips for Forklift Drivers*

- Do a daily safety check
- Know your workplace
- Understand the load chard
- Visibility: See and be seen
- Forklifts are versatile and dangerous



# *Daily Safety Check*

- TIRES
  - Are the tires cut or damaged
  - Are the tires at the correct air pressure



# *Daily Safety Check*

- MAST

- Are all the rollers on the mast still in place and turning
- Are the chains in good order and correctly adjusted
- Is the carriage damaged
- Is the backrest still in place
- Are the hydraulic cylinders, lift and tilt leaking
- Is the mast still straight
- Are the tynes (forks) worn, cracked or bent



# *Daily Safety Check*

- Seating
  - Is the seat (or seats) broken or worn out
  - Is the seat (or seats) firmly attached





# *Daily Safety Check*

- Controls
  - Are the controls clearly marked
  - Do the controls work properly
- Warning Devices
  - Is the horn working
  - Is the flashing light working
  - Are the brake and turning lights working



# *Daily Safety Check*

- Hydraulic Fluids
  - Are the hydraulic fluid levels adequate
- Capacity
  - Is a load plate to the manufacturer's specifications fitted
- Brakes
  - Are both hand and foot brakes working properly
- Steering
  - Is the steering wheel moving smoothly



# *Know Your Workplace*

Your skill and safety as a forklift operator will be improved if you know the area in which you have to work. Before starting work in a new area, walk around and assess the workplace.

If you think there are hazards needing attention, talk to your Area Safety Representative or Supervisor who will take up the issue.





## *Understand the Load Chart*

- The load chart shows the manufacturer's guarantee of the load which can safely be lifted. Increasing the load means the forklift becomes less stable.
- The weight, shape and size of the load will have a big effect on how you should move it.





## *Visibility: See and Be Seen*

- Seeing and being seen saves lives
- Only drive if you can clearly see around the workplace
  - If you can't see over the load, drive in reverse
  - Do not reverse up an incline; if you can't see over the load get someone to direct you
  - When driving into a darker area or into bright sunshine, stop and let your eyes adjust to the light
  - Be aware of “blind spots” created by the mast, lift cylinder or other parts of the forklift



# *Forklifts are Versatile and Dangerous*

- Stability and Loads
  - Forklifts, other than rough terrain machines, are designed to work on hard, level surfaces.
  - The weight, the shape, size, and position of the load all affect the stability of the forklift.
  - Backward as well as forward tilt, with the load raised, will affect the stability of the forklift



# *Forklifts are Versatile and Dangerous*

- Tires
  - Tires must be in good condition and correctly inflated
- Area
  - The area where you are operating the forklift must be hard and free from potholes and obstructions



# *Forklifts are Versatile and Dangerous*

- Ramps

- Forks should be pointed uphill when traveling with a load on a ramp. Forks should be pointed downhill when traveling without a load on a ramp. Never turn a forklift sideways on a ramp.





# *Forklifts are Versatile and Dangerous*

- Travel Speed
  - Always travel at a sensible speed and keep the load low.
- Braking
  - Rapid braking can mean the forklift loses stability



# *Safe Operation of Forklifts*

Smooth and efficient operation can reduce operator fatigue. It will also be more productive and reduce the possibility of damage to loads and the forklift.





# *Questions*

- If you have any questions or concerns please contact the MASC Regional Safety Manager at (303) 497-3912 or at [Rhonda.S.Carpenter@noaa.gov](mailto:Rhonda.S.Carpenter@noaa.gov).
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